

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named
Inventor : Bruce F. Field et al.

Appln. No.: Filed Herewith
Filed : Filed Herewith
For : CLEANING LIQUID DISPENSING
SYSTEM
Docket No.: T31.12-0012

Group Art Unit:
Examiner:

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING
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⁷⁴
30 DAY OF DECEMBER, 2003.


PATENT ATTORNEY

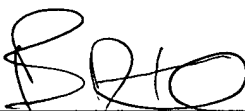
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.102 and M.P.E.P. §708.02, the Applicant petitions that the above referenced application be accorded "special" status. A Statement by Applicant Bruce F. Field accompanies this Petition. The Statement describes how the invention contributes to the restoration or maintenance of water resources.

No fee is required for such a petition. See 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c).

Please direct any questions of comments regarding this application to Brian D. Kaul (612) 330-0592.

Respectfully submitted,

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STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
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Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.102 and M.P.E.P. §708.02, and in support of the petition to accord "special" status to the above identified application, the undersigned states the following:

1. The undersigned is an inventor of the above identified application.
2. The invention contributes to the restoration or maintenance of the basic life-sustaining natural elements, i.e., air, water, and soil.
3. More particularly, the invention contributes to the restoration or maintenance of water resources.
4. The invention improves hard floor surface cleaning operations.
5. Prior art methods of cleaning hard floor surfaces have typically utilized a water-based cleaning solution which contain one or more chemicals, such as detergents, etc. at a predetermined concentration.
6. Prior art methods having utilized relatively large amounts of water and/or cleaning solution to thoroughly wet the surface during a cleaning process.
7. The invention is directed to a foamed cleaning liquid dispensing system for use in a mobile hard floor surface cleaner that applies an aerated or foamed cleaning liquid to a surface, such as a hard floor surface, that is to be

cleaned.

8. The aeration of the cleaning liquid allows for a substantial reduction to the amount of cleaning solution or liquid that is applied to the floor as compared to prior art cleaning operations.
9. Substantial reductions in the amount of water required to perform the improved cleaning process have been realized. Solution usage rates of 0.2 gallons per minute have yielded acceptable results. In comparison, prior art scrubbing machines of similar size often utilize approximately 1 gallon per minute. As water is the primary component of the cleaning solution, the improved process promotes an efficient use of water.
10. Another aspect of the invention utilizes a concentrated cleaning agent that provides an even greater reduction in the amount of cleaning detergents or chemicals that are used during cleaning operations. In one test a 220% reduction in the amount of cleaning chemicals yielded satisfactory results in comparison to known cleaning process. The substantial reduction in the amount of chemicals used in a floor surface cleaning process of the present invention contributes to the maintenance of water resources.
11. Accordingly, the invention contributes to the maintenance of water resources by reducing the amount of water required to perform a cleaning process and by limiting the amount of detergents or other chemicals which may ultimately be introduced into the ecology.

Bruce F. Field of Tennant Company

Dated: 11-05-03

B. F. Field